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I would like to offer my support of the proposed Associate of Science Oregon Transfer degree in Computer Science (ASOT-CS). The proposed degree program will enable seamless transition between Oregon's community colleges and Oregon's public universities for students studying computer science, a field where Oregon industry faces a critical workforce shortage. As a rapidly growing company based in Eugene, we often struggle to fill open software development and engineering positions due to the lack of qualified candidates in the area. I know many other companies in Eugene face similar struggles.

This proposed program builds upon the course articulations already in place between many of Oregon's community colleges and our universities' computer science programs, and upon the transfer degree programs already in place in our state. As a focused transfer degree program, the ASOT-CS will improve the visibility of computer science as a degree and career pathway in Oregon. It will benefit students by increasing access to financial aid throughout the community college program, and by providing clear advising pathways to computer science baccalaureate programs at all of our state's public universities.

The increased access and clear pathways will give more opportunities for students to graduate and become successful employees at my company and in the state of Oregon. I look forward to the creation of such opportunities for both current and future students through the ASOT-CS degree.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin Bloom'.

Justin Bloom
Chief Technology Officer
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